

ABSTRACT

In a data packet, e.g. a PDU of the UMTS, a length indicator field (16) of variable granularity is created, depending on the exact length of the payload to be transmitted. An additional field (14) is provided, a single bit in length, to indicate the granularity of the length indicator field. This increases the resolution of the header, whilst keeping low an overhead of extra field bits. The method of the invention comprises:

- a. assessing (32, 34) the length of the data to determine the appropriate units, from a plurality of possible units, in which the length should be expressed;
- b. setting (36, 40) a granularity field to define said appropriate units in which the length of the data is to be indicated; and
- c. setting (38, 42) the length indicator field to indicate the data length.